

IN THE CLAIMS

Please make the following claim substitutions:

1 1. (Previously presented) A method of format detection for information having an
2 information rate and received over a communication channel of a communication
3 system, the method comprising the steps of:

4 measuring the time period during which the information was received at a power
5 level that is equal to or above a defined threshold wherein the time period is measured
6 by detecting transitions in the power level of the received information, and

7 calculating the amount of information in said received information during the
8 measured time period as a function of said information rate and said measured time
9 period,

10 the amount of information received during the measured time period being
11 dependent on which of a plurality of information formats is the format of said received
12 information, and said method further comprising determining the format of said received
13 information from said calculated amount of information.

1 2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said transitions are
2 detected by

3 a) measuring the average power of a received signal carrying said information
4 over a first time window of a certain time width,

5 b) measuring the average power of said received signal over a plurality of second
6 time windows of said certain time width, each said second time window beginning at a
7 respective time after the start of said first time window,

8 c) comparing the power measured in step a with each of the powers measured in
9 step b, and

10 d) identifying the occurrence of said transitions as a function of the results of said
11 comparing.

1 3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein said communication
2 channel is a guiding channel, wherein said guiding channel contains blocks of data with

3 a unique format, and wherein the format of other channels is associated with said
4 unique format of said guiding channel.

1 4. (Currently amended) A method of format detection for information having an
2 information rate and received over a communication channel of a communication
3 system, the method comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

4 determining the format of the received information from the information rate and
5 a measurement of a time period during which the information was received at a power
6 level that is equal to or above a defined threshold wherein the time period is measured
7 by detecting transitions in the power level of symbols carrying the information,

8 wherein the communication channel is a guiding channel and the received
9 information is extracted from the guiding channel, and

10 determining the format of information in other channels based on the format of
11 said guiding channel, wherein M information blocks of defined size for said guiding
12 channel are associated with M information blocks of defined size for each of said other
13 channels where M is an integer.

1 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 where said communication
2 channel carries 3GPP compliant UTMS communication signals.

1 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the step of determining
2 said format of said received information comprises the steps of:

3 calculating an estimated information size value for information extracted from
4 said guiding channel by multiplying said information rate by said measured time period;

5 selecting at least one information size value candidate from M information size
6 values for said guiding channel based on the calculated estimated information size
7 value; and

8 applying the selected candidates to an algorithm for determining an actual
9 information size value of said information extracted from said guiding channel when said
10 estimated information size value is not equal to any of said M information size values for
11 said guiding channel.

1 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of calculating
2 an estimated information size value further comprises rounding off said calculated
3 information size value to a nearest integer value.

1 8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the format of the
2 extracted information is determined from said calculated estimated information size
3 value when that value is equal to one of said M information size values for said guiding
4 channel.

5 9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the step of applying the
6 selected candidates to said algorithm for determining an actual information size value
7 comprises performing an error correcting decode operation on said extracted
8 information that yields a result on which a tail bit test and an error detecting decode
9 operation are performed.

10 10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the transitions in said
11 power level occurs at the beginning and end of received blocks of data.

1 11. (Currently amended) A method for use in a system in which information is
2 communicated between communicating entities via a plurality of signals each
3 transmitted over respective one of a plurality of channels using a selected one of a
4 plurality of formats, there being for each format a respective information block size for
5 each of said channels, the power of the signal transmitted over at least a particular one
6 of said channels, serving as a guiding channel, being equal to or above a defined
7 threshold when a block is being transmitted over that channel, the method comprising:

8 identifying said selected format in response to a determination of the
9 block size being used in said guiding channel, and

10 determining the block size being used in the others of said channels
11 based on the identified format,

12 ~~CHARACTERIZED IN THAT~~ wherein the determination of the block size being

13 used in said guiding channel is made by measuring the time period during which at least
14 a complete one of said blocks of information was received over said guiding channel by
15 detecting transitions in the power level of the signal on that channel, and
16 determining said block size as a function of said information rate and
17 said measured time period.

1 12. (Previously presented) The invention of claim 11 wherein said determining
2 said block size as a function of said information rate and said measured time period
3 comprises:
4 calculating an estimated block size by multiplying said information rate
5 by said measured time period;
6 selecting at least one block size candidate from among the block sizes
7 specified by said formats for said guiding channel, said selecting being based
8 on said estimated block size; and
9 identifying as the actual block size being used in said guiding channel
10 by attempting to decode information communicated in said guiding channel
11 utilizing the block size candidates and determining which of said block size
12 candidates gives rise to a correct decode.